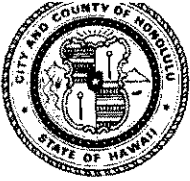


JAN. 19. 2007 3:36PM
TO: CLK MAIN

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

NO. 374 P. 1
FROM: COUNCIL KOBAYASHI



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065 / TELEPHONE 547-7000

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ANN H. KOBAYASHI

Chair, Executive Matters Committee
Councilmember, District V
(Manoa/McCully-Moiliili/Ala Moana/
St. Louis Heights/Palolo/Kapahulu)
Ph: 547-7005 Fax: 523-4220
Email: akobayashi@honolulu.gov

Contact: Steve Uyeno
527-5587

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 19, 2007

Revised: Please note that release should
reference Bill 6 (2007) instead of Bill 5 (2007).

Councilmember Kobayashi Introduces Anti-Graffiti Legislation

Honolulu—Councilmember Ann Kobayashi will be holding a press conference on Tuesday, January 23, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. at 2082 Manoa Road (across from the Punahou tennis courts) to announce the introduction of Bill 6 (2007), an anti-graffiti initiative which would allow the City to eliminate graffiti on private property visible from a public place.

"My office receives many calls notifying us of graffiti locations, however, because it is on private property it is difficult for the City to go there and clean it up," said Councilmember Kobayashi. "This law is similar to laws passed in other municipalities and would give the private owner the option of cleaning it up themselves or they would allow the City to go on their property to clean it up."

Penalties for graffiti range from 30 days in jail to fines for criminal property damage from \$1000 to \$20,000 and up to 10 years in jail. Current City law prohibits minors from purchasing or possessing graffiti implements with penalties ranging from 30 days in jail to a \$2000 fine. Despite current laws, graffiti continues to increase.

In 2005, Waialeale residents banded together to clean up the graffiti as soon as they occur and the program has been considered a success because the taggers eventually consider their actions a waste of time and resources.

"Studies have shown that the immediate removal of graffiti is the best deterrence for the prevention of graffiti," said Councilmember Kobayashi. "As seen in neighborhoods like Waialeale, community involvement is important in prevention of this crime and this law would involve the City and residents in preventing the spread of graffiti."